



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR MAKES LAND AVAILABLE FOR GAME RESTORATION PROGRAM

An order withdrawing 560 acres of land in the State of Washington to help the Washington State Game Department round out its Sherman Creek Game Range project has been approved by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Wesley A. D'Ewart.

The State will assume jurisdiction over the area upon completion of a cooperative agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Authority for the withdrawal is provided under the Coordination Act of August 14, 1946, which provides for the development of cooperative wildlife conservation programs.

Notice of the proposed withdrawal was published in the October 5, 1955 Federal Register which resulted in one informal protest from the Columbia Lumber Co. of Kettle Falls, Wash., urging that the timber on the lands should be sold. This protest was withdrawn upon assurance that an agreement had been reached by the Fish and Wildlife Service and BLM that any timber on the lands would be managed by BLM and disposed of under the usual procedures.

The Sherman Creek Game Range, in Ferry County in northeastern Washington, is a big game wintering area. The project was initiated in 1948 and up to the present time 6,579 acres of the original goal of 8,300 acres have been purchased by the State from private owners.

The land purchases have been made largely with Federal Aid funds. The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program is financed by a tax on guns and ammunition and is distributed to the States by the Fish and Wildlife Service on a formula basis. On projects which substantially restore wildlife values States are reimbursed for 75 percent of the actual cost.

Requests for such withdrawal of public lands are filed with the Bureau of Land Management by the Fish and Wildlife Service after the Service has reviewed and approved the State plans for a game management area.

Under the cooperative agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service the State retains control of the public lands as long as it continues to use the land for the specified purpose.

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